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Professor Johnson then read to the Society the portion of Mr. Piddington's Memoir referred to in his letter, and added some remarks in confirmation of the correctness of the views of the author on the subject.

Dr. Morton announced that he had recently received letters from Mr. I. G. Strain, U. S. N., a Correspondent of this Institution, dated from the China seas, detailing the causes of failure of his late expedition into the interior of Brazil. Mr. S. was on his return home, and expressed an ardent hope of being enabled to make a renewed effort to accomplish the objects of his undertaking.

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On motion of Mr. Phillips, *Resolved*, That the Geological Committee be authorised to put up a collection of the duplicate fossils, to be forwarded to M. D'Orbigny.

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*Stated Meeting, February 17, 1846.*

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Prepared specimen of *Orthogarisca mola*, from the Capes of Delaware. Presented by Messrs. Phillips, Cassin, and Hazard.

The following specimens, prepared and mounted, were presented by Messrs. Haldeman, Cassin, Bridges and Morton, viz :

*Cebus apellus*? South America, *C. hypoleucus*, and two other species; and *Jacchus vulgaris*, Geoff.

Rib bone of a cetaceous animal found in the green sand near Burlington, New Jersey; also fragments of fossil bone; *Baculites ovatus*, and *Scaphites Cuvieri*, from the vicinity of Morristown, New Jersey. Presented by Mr. Germain, of Burlington, through Dr. Hallowell.

Letters were read :

From the Baron Von Gerolt, Prussian Minister at Washington, dated February 9, 1846, returning acknowledgments for his election as a Correspondent.

From Jacob Tremper, Esq., dated Dresden, New York, February 9, 1846, calling the attention of the Society to the advantages and importance of the adoption by scientific bodies throughout the United States, of some general rules for keeping meteorological registers for comparison, &c.

From the American Academy of Arts and Sciences of Boston, dated February 8, 1846, communicating a copy of a letter addressed by a committee of that Society to the Joint Library Committee of Congress, desiring the publication of a larger edition of the Scientific Reports of the late U. S. Exploring Expedition, and soliciting the co-operation of this Institution in the matter.

The copy of the letter referred to was read also by the Corresponding Secretary.

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Professor Johnson offered the following Resolutions, which were adopted, and copies ordered to be transmitted to the American Academy at Boston, and to the Library Committee of Congress.

*Resolved*, That the memorial of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences of Boston, to the Joint Library Committee of Congress, asking for the publication of a larger number of copies of the scientific volumes containing the results of the late South Sea Exploring Expedition, meets the cordial approval and concurrence of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

*Resolved*, That in the view of this Academy, the present number of 100 copies only, printed on public account, is utterly inadequate to supply the demand for this work, especially as about one-half of that number is understood to be distributed in donations to Foreign Governments, while none are allowed to Scientific Societies at home.

*Resolved*, That while the results of other American Exploring

Expeditions, and of other scientific labors, performed in obedience to the requirements of Government, have, by a just and liberal policy, been made widely known to the public, the present course of *printing* 100 copies only of the labors of the South Sea Expedition, and which, therefore, scarcely deserves the name of a *publication*, does equal injustice to the nation which has borne the expense, and to the meritorious individuals who have performed the scientific duties.

*Resolved*, That this Academy having, by special request of the Navy Department, afforded its aid and counsel in the preparation of the Expedition, deems itself justified in complaining of the treatment which, in common with all the other scientific bodies then consulted, it receives by the existing arrangement,—that of being compelled either to forego the possession of the works in question, or to pay such a price as private speculation may affix to public documents prepared by public officers, and the entire expense of which (with an exception too insignificant to mention) has been defrayed out of the public treasury.

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*Meeting for Business, February 24, 1846.*

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

The Committee on Mr. Conrad's paper, read 6th January last, reported in favor of publication.

*Descriptions of New Species of Fossil and Recent Shells and Corals.*

By T. A. CONRAD.

TERTIARY FOSSIL SHELLS.

CERITHIUM ?

*Cerithium? calata*. Plate 1, fig. 19. Turrited, whorls with four revolving ribs on each, the superior pair large, elevated, and obliquely crenate ; the lower pair small, approximate, inferior one very near the suture ; lines of growth profoundly undulated.

*Locality*. Island of Huaffo, near Cape Horn. In Tertiary clay. Dr. James Eights.

This remarkable shell is imperfect in the last volution, and it is uncertain whether it should be referred to Turritella or Cerithium. The rib in the